

MAN MEASURES EVERYTHING

Uncontrollable variables are the bane and bugbear of those who would measure the diameter growth of many trees with a diameter tape, yet to learn about growth, there is no other way. We cannot wait until the cut stump reveals the growth rings. We cannot bore all of these trees. It is necessary to rely upon the D-tape, and reassure ourselves with the comforting thought that diameters are not capable of exact measurement in any kind of tree measurement inventory.

The diameter tape is a remarkable tool in the hands of an expert in the tree measuring trade. Three graphs follow this statement. They record daily diameter tape measurements, and show with remarkable clarity that the relationship of diurnal measurement is quite reasonable and logical. Where the daily record is not reasonable and logical, there is good cause for the unusual deviation.

When temperatures were far below freezing, the cells of wood and bark shrank and the diameters lost more than 1/10th of an inch. When the growing season was in full swing in June and July, there were step-like daily increases in diameter. When the spring or summer growth shows a sudden spurt for a day or two, it is because the wood and bark cells were turgid with water from the previous day's rain.

In the dormant season of August through November the least variability in tree diameters is evident. It is during this period that uncontrollable variables have their least effect on tree diameter, and this is the time for CFI and tree measurement with the diameter tape in the Lake and Central States.

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